

REMARKS

Claims 10-12 are pending in this application, of which claims 10-12 have been amended.

Claims 1-9 and 13-18 have been canceled. No new claims have been added.

Claims 10-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Liu et al.;

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has stated:

Regarding claims 10-12, the Applicant's argument is on the ground that the reference the Examiner relies on, Liu et al., shows the magnets 43a, 43b, 43c are not arranged substantially adjacent to the rotating shaft. The Examiner respectfully disagrees with the Applicant because Webster's dictionary defines "adjacent" as "not distant or nearby" and FIG. 1 of Liu et al., clearly shows the magnets 43a-43d are located nearby the shaft. Moreover, the term "substantially" is a relative term, it does not define how close the magnet should be with respect to the shaft or the range for the distance between the magnet and the shaft.

Accordingly, claims 10-12 have been amended to recite that "at least some of the permanent magnets have lengths which are radially disposed such that one end of each of said permanent magnets is adjacent to the rotating shaft," which is not disclosed in Liu et al.

Thus, the 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) rejection should be withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 10-12, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

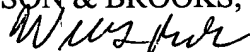
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/692,865**
Response to Office Action dated November 17, 2006

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Enclosures: Petition for Extension of Time
Check in the amount of \$120.00

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